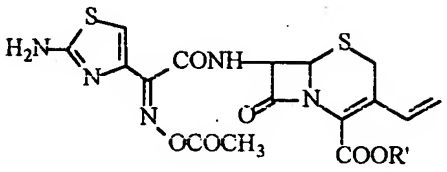
CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A process for preparing a cephalosporin of Formula II

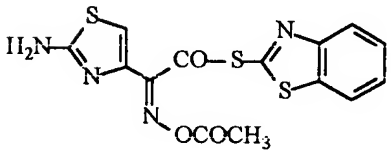


Formula II

R′ = H, any carboxyl protecting group or silyl group.

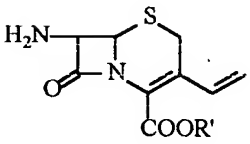
comprising the steps of:

reacting O-acetyl thioester of Formula I



Formula I

with a compound of Formula III in the presence of a base in suitable solvent



Formula III

wherein R′ = H, any carboxyl protecting group or a silyl group,

converting to cefdinir by the removal of protecting group or groups.

2. The process according to claim 1 wherein the said base can be organic base or an inorganic base.

3. The process according to claim 1 wherein the said organic base is an amine selected from the group consisting of triethylamine, diisopropylethylamine, tributylamine.

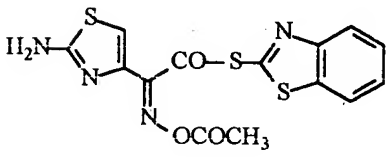
4. The process according to claim 1 wherein the said inorganic base is selected from the group consisting of sodium carbonate, sodium bicarbonate and mixtures thereof.

5. The process according to claim 1 wherein the said solvent is selected from the group consisting of water, tetrahydrofuran, methylene dichloride and mixtures thereof.

6. The process according to claim 1 wherein the said reacting step is conducted at a temperature between 10 and 25°C.

7. The process according to Claim 1 wherein the said carboxyl protecting group is selected from the group consisting of *p*-methoxybenzyl, *p*-nitrobenzyl and diphenylmethyl.

8. The process to prepare O-acetyl thioester of Formula I



Formula I

which comprises of
condensing (Z)-2-(2-amino-4-thiazolyl)-2-acetyloxyiminoacetic acid with bis(benzothiazol-2-yl)disulphide in the presence of triphenylphosphine and a base in a suitable solvent.

9. The process according to claim 8 wherein the said base is selected from the group consisting of tributylamine, triethylamine and mixtures thereof.

10. The process according to claim 8 wherein the said solvent is selected from the group consisting of methylene dichloride, chloroform, tetrahydrofuran, acetonitrile and mixtures thereof.

11. The process according to claim 8 wherein the said reacting step is conducted at a temperature between 0 and 35°C.